

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1–15 (canceled)

16. A process for preparing a catalyst comprising the steps of:

- (a) impregnating γ -alumina with a solution containing a magnesium salt;
- (b) drying the product of step (a); and
- (c) impregnating the product of step (b) with a solution containing a copper salt and, optionally, a lithium salt.

17. The process of claim 16 wherein said salts are chloride salts.

18–30 (canceled)

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PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please cancel claims 18 through 30, without prejudice to their presentation in a continuation application.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 16 and 17 will be pending in the current application. No new matter has been added.

Remarks:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's notification that claims 16 and 17 contain allowable subject matter. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection of claims 18 through 30, those claims are canceled herein in an effort to expedite issuance of a patent directed to the subject matter of claims 16 and 17. Therefore, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

Applicants request entry of this amendment on the grounds that the amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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